

## Official Shortcomings

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to the article from the Raleigh Sentinel in regard to Judge Watts and the Habeas Corpus. Was a people ever cursed by such corrupt and worthless officials as are North Carolinians? Did ever unscrupulous men use power more unscrupulously? When will it end?

## Crops in the East.

A friend writing to us from Panteo, Beaufort county, under date of the 31st July, says: "Some two weeks ago corn and cotton suffered for want of rain, since then we have had good rains, and the crops are looking really magnificent. With no disaster from row, there will be an abundance of corn and cotton raised in Beaufort county."

## Election Day.

We are certain that the quiet and orderly conduct of our colored citizens during the excitement of the election held yesterday is the cause of much congratulation upon the part of the white people. How much interest has been felt in the result we know from the warm canvass that has been had. If the two wings of the Radical party in this county have the least regard for each other, politically or personally, they certainly have not exhibited it either in the speeches of their orators, or the mottoes or caricatures of their transcriptions, or the open expressions of their private conversations.

If the Radical officials of this county are not rogues and scoundrels it is from no want of denunciations as such by former supporters. Yet, in the midst of all this abuse and feeling, we have witnessed processions march and counter march through our streets, interfering with the meetings and proceedings of the opposing faction, without collision and without unnecessary molestation. And we desire here to record our high appreciation of the conduct of the Price party on Wednesday evening, when their meeting was unnecessarily interfered with by the supporters of French. It was proof that those who controlled that wing of the party were well-disposed, law-abiding citizens. The advice given to his adherents by Price was decorous and manly, and won for him the sympathy of hundreds of the best citizens of Wilmington.

Such conduct, under such circumstances, will be remembered to his credit long after the excitement of the present canvass has been forgotten, and both the candidates have sunk into merited oblivion. It might be well to inquire into the cause of the good conduct of our colored people. Surely in former elections they were disposed to be riotous even to violence. Our white citizens found it necessary to provide for the protection of their rights and their lives. We are glad to say that ample preparation was all that was required. Since then, with each succeeding election, there can be no cause for complaint. We have yet to hear of the first annual violation of the peace on election day in our city. We read of election riots in New York, in Philadelphia, in Louisville, in Charleston, in Savannah, and in many other less important places throughout the country, but with us it has been different. This change, for change there has been, results from some well established cause, and we are satisfied that it is in consequence of the loss of influence over the colored people by the miserable carpet-baggers, who formerly held them in more abject bondage than ever their masters exercised over them while slaves. The negroes of New Hanover, to-day, have little or no confidence in such men as Abbott, French, Estes and Rutherford. Even those who followed them in this election were rather controlled by strict party discipline, and a preference for a black candidate than from any regard for the opinions of their white associates.

Indeed, whatever may have been the result of the election on yesterday, the doom of the carpet-bagger has gone forth. When French & Co. gave up the nomination of Rutherford they awkwardly acknowledged the end of their reign. We are satisfied that 25,000 would not have resigned but for the expectation that Rutherford was to succeed him. And although the Price faction was committed to the nomination of an unpopular and unworthy man, yet French & Co. dare not nominate the most popular, if not the most worthy, carpet-bagger in the county. In giving up the point the brotherhood of carpet-baggers signed their political death warrant. It is a "consummation most devoutly to be wished."

We believe the honorable course pursued by our citizens has done much to encourage a return upon the part of the blacks. We have yet to learn of the first gentleman in this community who has made the least concession to the overbearing spirit of party which has controlled the State, county and city. A few creatures, indeed, have bent their necks to the political storm, but they yet wallow in the fifth and more into which they plunged for selfish purposes. If the whites have exercised but little political control over the blacks, they have not lost their respect and confidence, and, to-day, the benefit of this influence is felt in the marked good conduct of these people. It will increase, and honor and principle will yet accomplish what policy and cowardice would have failed to do.

Virginia Politics and Politics Generally.

The exact position of politics in Virginia is troubling the politicians and press of the North no little. The Radical party, while positively refusing to acknowledge a defeat, are unwilling to claim a victory. They cannot bring themselves to the fact that their party has lost the control of the State, or that some reconciliation between the opposing wings cannot be made, and a defeat in substance converted into a victory in fact. Yet they are unwilling to forego the hope that it may be turned in their favor by the imposition of the test oath upon the members of the Legislature, thereby securing the more substantial ad-

vantages of the result. Between these conflicting alternatives they deny defeat with as much vehemence as they disclaim a victory. If the President sustains General Canby, then the Virginia election becomes a Radical defeat, but not otherwise.

It seems to us that this is a question which will settle itself in due course of time. Being a local election, it matters but little by what name the party is called upon whose banner victory perched. If can in no wise be called the Republican party. The Conservatives of Virginia, with the examples of Alabama and Mississippi before their eyes, knew full well that their State would not be admitted to the Union under officers elected by them of their own party, and without accepting the Constitution. In other words, that the election was an empty form, and they had no option in the matter. Under this condition of affairs they wisely determined to take advantage of a division in the Republican party, and vote with those least objectionable. The Conservative State Committee withdrew the name of Colonel Withers as a candidate for Governor and the others of the ticket, and supported the claims of Mr. WALKER with all the fervor and enthusiasm with which they had advocated the election of Colonel Withers, and with success.

This course no more commits the Conservative party of Virginia to the Republicans than it does ex-President Johnson in his present support of Governor SESTER in Tennessee, or it did us in voting for Mr. CHADBOURN for Mayor, or Messrs. KIDDER, LICE and others for Aldermen of our city at the last municipal election.

It is doubtless true that there is no Democratic party as it existed before the war, in Virginia or in any other Southern State. A life-long Democrat ourselves, since we voted for Gov. ELLIS in 1860, we have supported no man for Governor of the State who was formerly a member of the Democratic party. And yet we voted for Governors VANCE and WORTH, and Colonel ASHES with as much pleasure, and contributed our efforts for their success with as much enthusiasm, as we did for Governors DRAGO and ELLIS. If there was at the time of their election, or if there is now any difference of opinion in regard to our present duty in political matters between ex-Governors VANCE and WORTH and ourselves, or those who formerly acted with us, we have been unable to discover it.

The mistake some of our people make is that they do not appreciate the fact that old party issues and names in the South ceased with the war. We heard nothing of Democrats or Whigs during the war. We were all Confederates. At its close we found but one national party in existence with which we could unite, and that was the Democratic party of the North. This is the sum and substance of party names and relations at present. Among the Conservative masses in this State and elsewhere in the South, there is no conflict of principle. We all have common sympathies and interests, and it is worse than folly for us to attempt to get up a family quarrel upon names. It would be most suicidal.

What Conservative man in the South, by whatever political name he may call himself, who does not sympathize with, and desire the election of, Judge PACKER in Pennsylvania and General ROSENZ in Ohio? Yet they are Democrats. Does not nine of every ten men who supported WALKER in Virginia wish for the success of these gentlemen? We do not desire to be understood as claiming that they endorse their entire political records or agree altogether with the platforms upon which they have been nominated. But we know that our people sympathize with the Democrats of those two great States, and will watch for and receive the news of their success with great interest and rejoicing.

In this feeling of unity and interest among ourselves, let the press and public men not interfere. There is a strength and moral force in our union which will yet achieve success, as it now commands respect. There is the same necessity now as formerly for a close alliance between our people. And, too, there is no necessity at the present time of raising new and exciting political issues. We only ask that these subjects shall not be pressed just yet, but let us leave it to time and circumstances to settle. Our people will only be the better off for the delay, and will be in better condition to meet the issues when they do come.

The County Election.

Now that the excitement of the canvass and the smoke of the battle has passed away, it is an easy matter to survey the field of the late struggle in New Hanover county between rival wings of the Republican party.

The appearance and the immediate advantages of victory are with one party, but its substance is with the other. If we understand the real position of affairs it is a struggle between the carpet-baggers on the one side and the more respectable and influential colored citizens on the other. The former had all the advantages of official influence, patronage, money and whiskey. Still with these powerful aids they were afraid to nominate a carpet-bagger to fill the place of a retiring carpet-bagger, but overcame the just prejudices of the blacks to the future control of strangers, by nominating one of their own color, and one with much local popularity. However "showed" this movement was, it was an acknowledgment of the unpopularity of the carpet-bagger.

The other party undoubtedly had the sympathy of the whites, as it was led by colored men of character and position, and under other circumstances would have received a very general support from our people. It is but just to them to say their candidate had neither the confidence nor respect of the whites, and no positive popularity with the blacks. Under all the circumstances, with no official patronage to bestow, without means, without an organization, and with but imperfect organization, the result is highly flattering to the Price-Miller wing of the party, and to the zeal and judgment with which they conducted the canvass.

There is, beyond doubt, a prejudice

among the more ignorant blacks against the whites, and Eagles received many votes on this account without reference to any other influence. With a knowledge of this fact and in view of the result, we are satisfied that Allen Evans or any other colored man of character could have defeated Eagles. But reverse the matter. What would have been the result if French had nominated his friend and brother carpet-bagger, Rutherford, whom he desired to be elected, and he had been opposed by Evans? The Price wing would have undoubtedly polled five votes to their one, and whenever the carpet-baggers attempt such a race with Rutherford, French, Abbott or any of the fraternity, it will be seen that our prediction will be fully verified. The influence of the carpet-bagger is gone in New Hanover, and both white and black will be the gainers thereby.

We see in the result much to encourage the defeated party. They have won friends from white and black alike for the dignified, orderly manner in which they have conducted the canvass, and our people recognize among the leaders much of the intelligence, property and character of the colored people. With energies undaunted and with determinations unflinching, they are bound to wrest the city and county from the baneful control of those who now wield its destinies.

## Universal Suffrage.

The people of the South opposed negro suffrage upon principle. Even those who were willing to accept it were influenced by considerations of policy in regard to the reconstruction of the Southern States, and not because they believed it for the real welfare of the country. We opposed negro suffrage from no prejudice to them on account of their "color" or previous condition, but because we believed them, as we believe now, it was not for their own good nor the good of the whites that suffrage was to be conferred upon them. Our color-guards will bear us witness that in our opinion the control of their votes by strangers would be temporary, and that they would eventually array themselves upon the side of their former masters and friends. Consequently we could not have been influenced in our opposition by what we believed would be the future and permanent welfare of the Conservative party. We have frequently told the colored people that we believed if suffrage was conferred upon them and established by law, that the Southern whites would be called upon to defend that right against the Radicals of the North, and that the contest would begin so soon as the Radical party discovered that the blacks could no longer be depended upon as mere party tools.

We did not expect the inauguration of this movement so early, or from the source from which it now comes. Even before negro suffrage is a fixed fact—when nearly every Southern State has ratified the Fifteenth Amendment to make it part and parcel of the fundamental law—a leading Radical organ in the confidence and support of the Administration takes the back track, and announces that universal suffrage is dangerous to the welfare of the country, and demands of Congress to propose another amendment, making suffrage impartial instead of universal. The elections in Virginia, as is intimated in the following letter, and in Tennessee, to say nothing of former elections in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, have opened the eyes of leading Radicals to the dangers of putting the ballot into the hands of the ignorant masses. We predict again, as we did eighteen months since, that the blacks will yet look to Southern whites as their chief supporters to sustain their right of suffrage, and all other rights which will be legally conferred upon them by the law of the land. Mark our prediction.

We make the following extract from the Washington correspondence of the Baltimore Gazette:

It has been observed that, since the Virginia election, "universal" suffrage has become surprisingly less popular with the mass of Radical men in the North. The slaves of the neighboring country came in, anxious to place themselves under the protection of the United States troops, and to receive the benefits of the Freedmen's Bureau. The citizens of the country were not to be deceived. A very strange question now arises. The citizens of the country want to know when the negroes of North Carolina will be free from the time the proclamation was issued, they want the government to pay them for the land, or force them to work on their own land. The negroes can be freed, but the land must be sold in the interim is valid, and the amount may be collected; but no claim for services rendered by the negro can be enforced. The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce states that the Freedmen's Bureau has been referred to the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and the court does the issue. Judge E. W. Jones, of that court, being at the time in England, has been asked to talk about it. Baltimore Sun.

The Supreme Court has settled this question so far as North Carolina is concerned. In the case of Harrell vs. Watson, decided during the recent term of the Court, it was held that emancipation was effected by the action of the State Convention of 1865, and the subsequent ratification by the people of the ordinance emancipating the slaves. This decision should be a safe precedent for a Judge of an inferior Court. Can Judge Jones be counted on for the favor and endorsement of Congress and the Administration in a different decision.

Fatal Tooth Drawing.

A little girl, eight years old, the daughter of a butcher in Arlington, Pa., on Thursday died from lock-jaw, the result, as it is alleged, of an operation which was performed at a dentist's shop. The little girl had an aching tooth, and by the advice of her parents she went to the dentist's office to get it extracted. It is claimed that the operation was performed in such a rough manner that the patient grew ill after it, and that lock-jaw set in, from the effects of which she died.

The Texas Floods. A plea for Aid.

The Galveston Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with other citizens of the State of Texas, have organized a central executive committee, to take measures to secure relief for the sufferers by the late floods in Colorado Valley. Hundreds of persons have lost their entire property by the disaster, and many of them are almost without shelter and food. The committee is now endeavoring to raise money to relieve the sufferers, and is calling upon the citizens of Texas and of the country at large, to come to their rescue.

A live toad was found in a solid lump of coal in Indianapolis, one day last week.

THE ECLIPSE.—No sight of more sublimity or grandeur could possibly have been imagined than the eclipse presented yesterday. Business was for the time suspended and every inhabitant, large and small, gazed with silent awe upon this wonderful phenomenon, one of the grandest on record. The very breath seemed suspended during the total phase, and the magnificent sight was witnessed with feelings impossible to describe. Admiration, awe, wonder, curiosity and delight were all singularly blended; and the scene was well calculated to awaken such feelings.

A few minutes past 5 o'clock the eclipse commenced. Those who watched its progress through smoked glasses could see the body of the moon gradually shutting out the bright circle of the sun and casting its shadow upon the earth. In about 30 minutes the sun was half-eclipsed, and at a few minutes past 6 o'clock the eclipse was total. In the mean time the earth grew dark, and as the light of day became obscured by this premature darkness, the atmosphere grew cool and a chilly feeling swept over us. The thermometer fell 4 degrees, and the wonderful change was everywhere apparent, and even the chickens began to prepare for sleep and actually went to roost. The darkness was that of early night, but not quite so great as actual night lighted by the moon. It seemed a premature and unnatural darkness and one that could be felt.

The total eclipse lasted for the space of three minutes. The sight was one then for the naked eye. The body of the moon fully obscured the sun, and around its edge was a crimson circle from which mellow rays shot forth. Upon the lower edge of the moon appeared a considerable spot or gap, through which a deadened light was seen. In other parts of this planet and within the circle were to be seen two or three small spots through which the light penetrated as through a veil. Several stars made their appearance, brightened the heavens and the firmament denoted night. While the gaze of all humanity was thus fixed the sun began to emerge from the eclipse. The first flash of his bright and golden rays appeared suddenly, and he seemed rapidly to emerge from the shadow. The dazzling effect was not immediate, but that portion of the sun's surface first seen appeared like liquid fire, and rays shot forth beautiful and in the height of splendor. Seen with the naked eye this liquid fire, as it were, seemed in commotion, and it was an optical illusion with some for an instant that the two heavenly bodies had come in contact and one was consuming the other. And the sight was grandly sublime and the wonders of the works of God were fully manifested to our awe-stricken gaze.

The passage of the sun from eclipse seemed quite rapid and soon interest was lost. The earth resumed its wonted appearance, the air again warmed, the pulse of nature was renewed and the cheerful light of day reappeared. Scientific men all over the line of country in which the eclipse was visible have made extensive observations, and will publish them for the benefit of the world. The appearance of the moon was no doubt accurately photographed for preservation. In witnessing this sight our age and generation has been extremely fortunate.

Daily Journal St. Louis.

Virginia Politics.

Who elected WALKER Governor of Virginia becomes an interesting question in view of the claim of a Republican victory by certain Radical papers in the South. Whatever North Carolina Radicals may think of Wells' defeat, the home papers are not so well satisfied. Here is what the London Republican, a Radical paper, says in regard to this Virginia Republican victory:

"We believe that Walker's majority would have been at least twice as large had every one of his Republican supporters voted for Governor Wells."

When was the Slave Set Free.

At the time the emancipation proclamation was issued, our forces were in possession of Plymouth, North Carolina. The slaves of the neighboring country came in, anxious to place themselves under the protection of the United States troops, and to receive the benefits of the Freedmen's Bureau. The citizens of the country were not to be deceived. A very strange question now arises. The citizens of the country want to know when the negroes of North Carolina will be free from the time the proclamation was issued, they want the government to pay them for the land, or force them to work on their own land. The negroes can be freed, but the land must be sold in the interim is valid, and the amount may be collected; but no claim for services rendered by the negro can be enforced. The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce states that the Freedmen's Bureau has been referred to the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and the court does the issue. Judge E. W. Jones, of that court, being at the time in England, has been asked to talk about it. Baltimore Sun.

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the power which they see is slowly but surely slipping from their grasp. The Grand Army of the Republic was organized for such a purpose, and so delisted is it that even Horace Greeley is forced to cry out against them, forecasting the dire evils to befall the country if they are not checked. They are inimical to free institutions, and want them demolished. When the apostle of Radicalism deals against anything in his own party it must indeed be evil.

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## The Recent Tragedy in Illinois.

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